



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
FOUR PENN CENTER – 1600 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD.
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103**

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Dear Mr. Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Thank you for your May 16, 2022 letter to Administrator Michael Regan regarding your concerns about environmental issues in the Millsboro, DE area including the Inland Bays Waste Water Treatment Plant (IBWWTP), Mountaire Farms and other locations you have previously highlighted as potential environmental issues. Your letter was referred to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 (EPA) for response.

I assure you that my staff continues to look into the concerns you have raised and that may fall under EPA's authorities. As you referenced in your correspondence, two inspectors from the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division conducted an inspection of the IBWWTP facility on April 1, 2022. The EPA inspectors accompanied inspectors from DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The purpose of EPA's inspection was to assess whether wastewater sprayed on IBWWTP's spray fields was running off property and into nearby surface waters which could put IBWWTP's under federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction for surface runoff. On the date of the inspection, the EPA inspectors found no evidence of surface runoff leaving the spray fields and entering surface water bodies. They also saw no evidence of historical runoff such as erosion or different vegetation or lack thereof. There was no spraying occurring at the time of the inspection.

EPA recently received IBWWTP monitoring well sampling data from DNREC. This data set covers 2015 through Spring 2022 and appears to be the same data that was summarized in an attachment to your May 27, 2022 email sent to EPA and others. My staff are currently reviewing this data. This data has also been shared with EPA's Criminal Investigation Division and with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), an arm of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which would be a resource available for performance of a health assessment. As you have been advised, ATSDR is the principal federal public health agency that may help identify, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of hazardous substances, if present, on human health.

EPA inspectors also attempted to conduct an inspection on April 1st of a property located on Lawson Road that you referred to EPA (Parcel ID # 234-21.00-139.00 from the spreadsheet you provided). Neither EPA nor inspectors from DNREC were able to contact the property owner to obtain access to the site prior to or on April 1st. The inspectors viewed the property as best they could from adjoining properties. DNREC was subsequently able to contact the owner or operator of the property to schedule an inspection. That inspection will occur soon. An EPA Clean Water Act inspector will be present at that inspection along with several inspectors from DNREC evaluating other statutory programs.

Once these activities are completed, we will be happy to share the findings with you.

Sincerely,

Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474

Karen Melvin, Director
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division.